

Police Conduct Oversight Commission Policy and Procedure Committee

Minutes

Regular Meeting October 25, 2016

Starting at 6:00 p.m.

350 Fifth Street, Room 241, Minneapolis, MN 55407

Committee Members Present: Afsheen Foroozan, and Jennifer Singleton (Chair).

Committee Members Absent: Amran Farah.

Staff Present: Ryan Patrick - Police Conduct Operations Supervisor and Kaela McConnon.

Chair Singleton called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

A quorum of the Commission was present.

Foroozan moved to adopt the meeting agenda.

Seconded.

No discussion. All-in-favor. None opposed.

The motion carried.

Foroozan moved to adopt the meeting minutes from September 27, 2016.

Seconded.

No discussion. All-in-favor. None opposed.

The motion carried.

Ongoing Business

Co-Responder Pilot Program Update

Chair Singleton addressed the Committee. The following were the main points from her update:

- Currently are waiting for the budget to be finalized.
- There will be an upcoming meeting with Commander Schoenberger, Inspector Cathy Waite, and Leah Kaiser, who is a manager for Hennepin County's Human Services and Public Health Department, to go over logistics and the interworking's of the program.
- The MPD has expressed concerns with regard to safety in having a civilian present or responding to an incident, particularly when there are weapons involved.
- Will also have a call with Dr. Sarah Abbot in Massachusetts next week to gather information regarding MPD's safety concerns.

Pending Approval

With the conclusion of the update, the Chair opened the floor for discussion. The following is a list of speakers and a brief abstract of their individual comments:

Foroozan – expressed interest in the logistics mentioning that the police wear body armor, but at the same time there is a need for them to seem more approachable.

Singleton – stated that the co-responder stays away until the incident or situation is stabilized, when the matter is under control the co-responder can enter the scene. There is also work being done to work with the drop-off center that Hennepin County is currently working on.

With no further discussion on the matter, the Chair moved to the next item on the agenda.

Framework for the Chief's Performance Review

The Chair opened the floor for discussion. The following is a list of speakers and a brief abstract of their individual comments:

Foroozan – indicated that he will schedule time with Ryan Patrick to finish creating the performance review process and matrices.

Singleton – stated that she would like the framework presented at the November Policy and Procedure Committee meeting and to the full Commission at the December meeting. She also mentioned that she spoke with Chuck Turchick regarding the framework after the last meeting, the discussion included MPD policy changes before implementation and communication with the Chief.

With no further discussion on the matter, the Chair moved to the next item on the agenda.

Issue Tracking Queue

Chair Singleton opened the floor for discussion. The following is a list of speakers and a brief abstract of their individual comments:

Singleton – mentioned that Commissioner Farah was interested in exploring issues associated with forfeiture.

Foroozan – expressed interested in the overarching revisions of the MPD manuals, but mentioned that it sounds as though the MPD is currently working on that one.

Patrick – indicated that the MPD has been revising several items in the manuals. Additionally the Justice Department indicated that they may be pursuing a similar project but is unaware of the status on that suggesting that perhaps the best use of the PCOC's time may be reviewing the work that is already being done rather than producing a different project.

Pending Approval

Singleton – asked if Mr. Patrick would look into the status of the National Initiative’s progress and report back to the Committee.

With the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair moved to the next item on the agenda.

New Business

Issue Tracking Queue - Cases Referred to the Committee by the Commission

Chair Singleton opened the floor for discussion. The following is a list of speakers and a brief abstract of their individual comments:

Singleton – stated that she didn’t believe that any of the cases from the last Commission meeting were formally motioned to move to the queue, but the three were discussed. One involved an officer having sexual relations; another where a gentleman was approached who had a permit to carry and was ultimately placed in the back of a squad car; and the third involved an officer following four African American youths and a woman overheard the officers making racist comments.

Foroozan – stated that this is a known problem and expressed frustration in that the issue is brought up continually with little to no change.

Patrick – expressed interest in whether or not body cameras will change any of this behavior, stating that there are times when an officer may not understand a policy however, language is a clean cut issue.

Foroozan – had skimmed articles where in areas where body cameras are in use incidents of this nature have dropped by about 92%.

Singleton – indicated that she wanted complaint number 16-09-08 added to the queue.

Public Comment

Kathy Czech

- There is a video available that illustrates how officers clear a scene to allow civilian co-responders to in; there are no reports of co-responders being injured when entering a scene or responding to an incident.
- The State Task Force for Mental Health will be making a recommendation to adopt co-responder programs.

Pending Approval

Singleton – indicated that in the information booklet there is a good story about an officer learning from the co-responder and the use of de-escalation techniques; felt it was an interesting perspective and a useful conversation for the MPD to have.

Adjournment

With the Committee's business concluded, the Chair entertained a motion:

Foroozan moved to adjourn.

Seconded.

All-in-favor. None opposed.

The motion carried.

Chair Singleton adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m.